

Central Falls School District
Board of Trustees
Minutes

August 14, 2007

I. Call to Order:

Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Angelo Garcia, called the Central Falls School District Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present were: Mr. Angelo Garcia, Vice-Chairperson
Ms. Mary Lou Perez, clerk
Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado

Not present with an excuse: Ms. Anna Cano Morales
Ms. Sonia Rodrigues

Not Present: Mr. Jhomphy Ventura
Mr. David Cruise

II. Policy and Planning:

a. Proposal to request waiver of Special Ed Regulations regarding

class size and teacher assistant requirements for discussion.

Mrs. Garrison gave a brief explanation on the following:

Regulations Governing the Education of Children with Disabilities:

Regulation: 300.502(B) School Age Children

(1) Self-contained special classes whether part-time or full-time for school aged children with mild and moderate disabilities shall be limited to eight (8) children unless there is an equivalent of a full-time teacher assistant in which case the maximum number allowable shall be ten (10) children. When a work placement program is being conducted at the senior high school level whereby half of the children with disabilities are involved in out-of-school work placement, there shall be a special education teacher in the classroom and at least one (1) other special education teacher employed in the coordination and counseling of work placement activities. When half of the class is on work placement, the maximum size of the class may exceed ten (10) children with disabilities with the equivalent of a full time-teacher assistant, but in no case shall the size exceed a maximum of twenty (20) children with disabilities. Maximum class size for children with severe, profound or multiple disabilities shall not exceed six (6) children and shall include a full-time teacher assistant when the class size exceeds three (3) children.

(2) The class size described in section (1) of this regulation represents the total number of students assigned to the particular teacher assigned to that class comprising that teachers total caseload, regardless of the number of students physically present in that class at any one time.

- **Self-contained:**

One teacher with one teacher assistant located in one classroom. Students are placed according to similarity of disability. RI State Regulations require a teacher assistant for 8 students and above.

- **Integrated:**

Two teachers are in a co-teaching model utilizing two classrooms

- **Full Inclusion:**

Two teachers in a teaching partnership model utilizing one classroom

- **Resource:**

One teacher with a schedule involving a caseload of up to 30 students maximum. Classroom size varies from group to group

Self-Contained Model

Current Ratio Future Ratio (July 2008)

**Student : Teacher : Teacher
Assistant**

Student : Teacher : Teacher

Assistant

Elementary/

Middle

Levels

10 : 1 : 1 Elementary/

Middle

Levels

12 : 1 : 1

High

School

Level

10 : 1 : 1 High

School

Level

15 : 1 : 1

Severe

Disabilities

6 : 2 : 2 Severe

Disabilities

9 : 1 : 2

• **Preschool and Kindergarten Classrooms**

- **Moderate/Severe disabled students classroom**

- **One to one Personal Care Attendants**
- **Self-contained classrooms where there are 8 or more students (R.I. State Regulations)**

Note: Mobility factors do not vary numbers in some classrooms during the school year.

Elementary School Level (Grades: Preschool-5)

10 Preschool-Kindergarten Classrooms (8 Hunt/ 1 Veterans/ 1 Ella Risk)

10 Integrated/Inclusion Classrooms

7 Self-Contained Classrooms

4 1:1 Personal Care Attendants

1 1:1 Staff (Section 504 Plan)

32 Total

Classroom numbers under 8 = loss of 6 Teacher Assistants

Middle School Level (Grades 6-8)

6 Integrated/Inclusion Classrooms

7 Self-Contained Classrooms

2 1:1 Personal Care Attendants

1 1:1 Personal Care Attendants (Out of District)

17 Total

Classroom numbers under 8 = loss of 1 Teacher Assistant

High School Level (Grades 9-12)

16 Integrated/Inclusion Classrooms Teachers

3 Self-Contained Classrooms

1 Computer Lab Assistant

1 ESL Assistant (Grant Funded)

6 1:1 Personal Care Attendants

1 1:1 Personal Care Attendants (Out of District)

28 Total

Due to continued scheduling at the High School, numbers are not finalized for classrooms.

There will be a significant decrease at this level. Students need less assistance at this level.

Mrs. Arlene Garrison said that the School District is considering a plan to move earlier to a new state-mandated ratio for special education. Also Mrs. Garrison mentioned that the district is looking to tighten its existing practices in an effort to cut costs. Also there

was a question by the Board regarding how many IEPs are done per year and Mrs. Garrison responded that regularly, at least two per year; IEP reviews were held in order to ascertain the continued need for teacher assistants. Also Mrs. Garrison said that the District may still request a Waiver from the Rhode Island Department of Education in order to transition to the new regulations for January 2008.

b. First Reading, Athletic Policy

Dr. Gallo read part of the attached policy

Central Falls High School

Warrior Athletics

Policy Handbook

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Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to provide student athletes and their families with an overview of the Central Falls High School Interscholastic Athletic Program and the policies, procedures, and rules that govern it. Question regarding any material in this handbook, as well as questions about any aspect of the program not addressed in this handbook should be directed to Mrs. Luther, Director of Athletics.

Central Falls High School is a member of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League, whose purpose is to organize, regulate and promote interscholastic athletics for secondary school abides by the regulations and subscribes to the guidelines set forth by this organization. In addition, the school rules of Central Falls High School also govern the athletic program.

Mission Statement

The primary purpose of the athletic program at Central Falls High school is to provide an environment in which students can experience self-discipline, self-motivation, excellence, and the ideals of good sportsmanship through athletics. We expect our athletes to accept the responsibilities that go with the privilege of representing Central Falls in athletics.

Eligibility

All athletes and coaches should be familiar with the RIIL rule book: part one article three. Determination of eligibility and recruitment of athletes is discussed in this section. An athlete is ineligible if:

- 1. He or she is nineteen prior to September 1st.**
- 2. If four year from the date of entry into the ninth grade has occurred. A student is limited to eight semesters once he or she enters ninth grade.**
- 3. Transfers from one school to another without a corresponding change of address and participated on a varsity squad at the sending school. If a student participated on a varsity team at the previous school, he/she will be ineligible for 50% of the RIIL season in each sport that he/she participated.**
- 4. Student is taking less than 4 subjects.**
- 5. Student must be passing 60% of their subjects**
- 6. A valid Assumption of Risk form is not on file.**

Health and Safety

Section 1: Physical Exam

All candidates for athletic teams are required to have a yearly physical examination prior to the first day of practice. This can be done by your own physician. Documentation must be given to the athletic director for review then given to the school nurse to file. Physicals may also be done at our school-based clinic. No athlete is to practice unless he/she has a complete physical examination form on file in the athletic director's office.

Section 2: Permission Form/Registration Form

Form must be signed by the parent or guardian indicating the student has permission to participate in a particular sport. This form also includes necessary insurance information. An athlete is not to practice unless he/she has this form on file in the athletic office or with the coach.

Section 3: Insurance

School insurance is mandatory for athletes. The family's personal medical insurance is the first step in covering medical expenses. School insurance is secondary. The Rhode Island Injury Fund is an emergency source of funds available to athletes who has secured school insurance. Under certain circumstances, the RI Injury Fund provides assistance for medical expenses which are not covered by

either personal insurance or school insurance. All questions should be directed to the athletic director regarding medical expenses and the procedures to follow in the event of a claim.

Section 4: Accident Report

All injuries must be reported to the athletic director as soon as possible. An accident report must be submitted to the athletic director. An injured athlete who has been taken out of competition by a doctor's recommendation is not to return to practice or competition without written approval of the doctor.

Code of Conduct

Section 1: Sportsmanship

Athlete's responsibility: It is the chief responsibility of all athletes that they conduct themselves as worthy representatives of Central Falls High School at all times. Good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, integrity, and the respect for others are the guiding principals that permeate all interscholastic activities in our school. All individuals, regardless of their role, are expected to model sportsmanship because of their influence on the behavior of others. Athletes whose behavior is unworthy on and off campus as a representative and ambassador will be disciplined by the coach and or athletic director if necessary.

Section 2: Attendance

Athletes are expected to be in school on the day of any athletic contest. Athletes who miss any part of the day due to illness or other excused reasons must be in attendance by 11:30 in order to play in a contest or practice on that day. If you are absent from school or suspended from school, you are ineligible to practice or play.

Section 3: Alcohol and Drugs

All athletes are expected to refrain from the use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs and steroids. In season violation will result in suspension from all scheduled contests and practices for five school days, (must include the next scheduled contest of the season) for the first infraction. Parent conference with the coach, athletic director and school counselor will be necessary for reinstatement. The athlete will be suspended from the team for the remainder of the season for a second infraction.

Section 4: Hazing

Under no circumstances will any type of hazing and/or initiation be tolerated. The term “hazing” as defined by RI State Law, means any conduct or method of initiation that any student organization, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any students or other person. Violation will result in strong disciplinary action, including possible suspension from the athletic team.

Section 5: Appearance

Coaches are requested to instruct students to dress properly for

away trips. A neat orderly appearance is requested.

Section 6: Practice

Attendance at all practices is the responsibility of the athlete. It is strongly encouraged that during vacations all practices and contests be scheduled as normal. Vacations by athletic squad members are discouraged. Coaches and athletes are expected to practice during these vacations. A student athlete who misses practice during vacation must be willing to assume the consequences of their absence as it relates to their playing status on the team.

Equipment

- 1. A record of all equipment issued to athletes will be kept by the coach.**
- 2. No athletic equipment may be worn in gym class or outside of practice or games.**
- 3. All athletes are required to return all issued equipment at the conclusion of the season**
- 4. Any athlete who has not turned his/her equipment will not be allowed to practice or participate in any subsequent season.**
- 5. If the equipment is lost or destroyed, the athlete must make restitution.**

Transportation

All athletes are required to travel to and from away contests in designated authorized transportation or buses. Athletes are not permitted to use their own vehicles for transportation at any time. With the coach's approval, an athlete can be released at an event to their parent/guardian only.

*** There were some concerns regarding the following: Student must be passing 60% of their subjects. Dr. Gallo will check on this with the H.S. Principal. Mr. Garcia had suggested that the board members will also take this percentage into consideration and will voice their suggestions or concerns to Dr. Gallo prior to the next board meeting.**

c. Second Reading Transportation and Alternate School Philosophy

5.1.12.1 Bus Transportation

Transportation will be provided for children residing in the Central Falls School District in the following categories:

1) Special education students will be provided transportation if it is mandated according to their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

2) LEP students in grades 1-3 and grade 4 at Broad Street School who are outside their home school area will be provided transportation if the school to which they are assigned is more than 1/2 radial mile from their home.

3) Students in grades 1-3 who are placed at a school outside their home school area due to class size and/or grouping requirements will be provided transportation if the school to which they are assigned is more than 1/2 mile radial mile from their home.

Alternate Schools

Philosophy

The Central Falls School District wishes to promote diversity and differentiation of instruction in all its schools. However, the District believes that the unique needs of some students require a unique setting and a more individualized approach. For the Central Falls School District, an alternate school may be established to meet these specific student needs. By doing so, the District maintains that the needs of all students may be best served.

In an alternate school setting, the teachers and administrators are expected to develop a governance structure that enables them to function as a shared leadership team monitoring the day to day issues of school life as well as the overarching regulations under which all RI schools must function. This leadership team must have the autonomy to develop and accept alternate routes for students to demonstrate proficiencies.

In an alternate school setting the teachers and administrators work together to build curriculum units that enable the designated district curriculum to be chunked and delivered in an experiential approach

suitable for small groups capitalizing on teacher and community support. Teachers and administrators work together to monitor student progress and make grouping changes based on individualized pacing needs of the students.

In an alternate school setting, the work of the parents as partners in education is fundamental and must be explored and developed to the greatest extent possible. It is in the alternate schools setting that regular communication and face to face meetings are commonplace

Note: Due to lack of a quorum at tonight's meeting no votes were taken. It will be reviewed at the next Board of Trustees meeting.

d. School Board calendar and School year calendar.

There were only two changes:

- On October 2, 2007 there will be no school due to primary vote.**
- Last day of school will be June 17, 2007.**

e. Budget Presentation:

Mr. Bob Murray started by saying that the District did not received all the funding that the district required to secure the program in this coming fiscal year. Mr. Murray said that they've been having some ongoing discussions and they have cut down to a short fall of around 2.6 million dollars. They have been told that there is no extra money, so now the district is getting into the point of very serious cuttings.

The district is trying to figure out where the funds will come from. Mr. Murray said that he had some good news. The district had carried over some money from last year that they did not expend, so that will be a help for the district. The district has reduced some of the programs that we're at the high school and we did not have anybody filling those positions. The districts had a Kindergarten position and were able to cut that. Mr. Murray said that the district is somewhere in the neighborhood of a short fall of around \$1.1 million dollars. The district is seriously taken a look at what we are going to do with teacher assistants and how we are going to take that approach. The district is expending approximately 4 million dollars for out of district placement students. Mr. Murray also mentioned that all cities and towns maintain a budget and that CF district is unique because they are their own entity and being their own entity they run their own budget. The Central Falls School District has a reserve of 5% of the overall budget. They have put aside \$500,000.00 on this reserve. The district received directions from the Department of Education to use all of that money and by doing so this will put the district in a position where they won't have any reserves. The Dept. of Education said that this money is to be used in an emergency and we are considering this as an emergency. At the end Mr. Murray said, that they will keep on working on this problem.

III. Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

IV. Consent Agenda:

Due to lack of a quorum the approval of June 12, 2007 minutes, routine personnel actions, resignations and rescissions and other routine matters were tabled for the next board meeting.

V. Contracts

no contracts

VI. Personnel Appointments:

VII. Action Items:

- Transportation Policy** **Due to lack of a quorum, no votes were taken.**
- Alternate Schools Philosophy** **These will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.**

VIII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gallo mentioned that she will be giving her report at the next Board meeting.

IX. Future Meetings:

Next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on September 11, 2007 at the High School Cafeteria at 6:00 p.m.

X. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. No roll call vote was taken due to lack of a quorum.